

# Installing Windows 7

## Background

I have been running Windows 7 Release Candidate 1 on my notebook computer for the past several months. When the RTM code was posted to Microsoft TechNet, I upgraded the notebook to the final release, then updated the desktop. The desktop is a fairly complex machine with 3 internal hard drives (partitioned as 4 logical drives), 2 external USB drives, and 2 optical disk devices. The 3rd internal hard drive is connected to an add-on PCI Express card. The sound card is an Audigy 2 ZS device that was not well supported under Vista.

## Overarching observations

- This is the easiest Windows update ever.
- There is no *direct* upgrade path from XP to 7, but Microsoft has tools that make the process easy.
- Windows 7 is far faster than Vista and faster even than XP.
- Disk-heavy applications (Carbonite backup, for example) can coexist (most of the time) with applications such as iTunes.
- Networking and file sharing (via *Homegroup*) alone are worth the cost of the upgrade. *All systems must run Windows 7.*

## The short account:

1. Win XP to Win 7 – no need to format the drive.
2. If you use Microsoft's update tool, most of the settings for applications will be preserved.
3. Microsoft provides a list of apps that were installed previously. There is no way to print this list.

## Contemporaneous Notes – 5 September 2009 – 9:30 am

The system is my primary production machine. It is a dual-boot system with Ubuntu Linux and the boot loader on drive D. I am not sure what the implications are of installing Windows on C now that the boot loader is on D. CMOS shows the primary boot device is ST3500630AS (D) with ST3250410AS (C) second. I switched the order to boot from C, which bypasses GRUB and will install Windows 7 this way.

Initial preparations:

- Deactivate Adobe CS4 apps.
- Deactivate Adobe Lightroom (no deactivation available).
- Deactivate Adobe Audition 3.
- Deactivate OnOne Photo Tools.
- Network Magic install count reset by NM.
- Deactivate Alien Skin Snap Art 2.
- Back up "Bill" and "Phyllis" from D&S on C: (Application Data, Desktop, My Documents).
- Back up Firefox settings – Mozbackup.
- Back up Filezilla settings.
- Confirm availability of Ultimate Boot Disc and Ubuntu installer disc.
- Turn off Carbonite.
- Confirm serial numbers table is on notebook.
- Install KeePass2 on notebook with current password file.
- Screen shot of menu.
- AllwaySync backup of settings? Found export profile option and export application option (XML).

Phase 1 is complete at 10:30 am.

## The Installation

- Boot to installer on DVD.
- Installer directs me to <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/library/dd446674%28WS.10%29.aspx>, which explains how to perform the required clean installation and keep the existing files and settings. This requires restarting Windows and running a wizard from the Windows 7 installer disc. Microsoft's instructions: Browse to the DVD drive on your computer and click migsetup.exe in the Support\Migwiz directory. The Windows Easy Transfer window opens. Click Next. Select *An external hard disk or USB flash drive*. Click *This is my old computer*. Windows Easy Transfer scans the computer. Click Next. You can also determine which files should be migrated by selecting only the user profiles you want to transfer, or by clicking *Customize*. Enter a password to protect your Easy Transfer file, or leave the box blank, and then click Save. Browse to the external location on the network or to the removable media where you want to save your Easy Transfer file, and then click Save.
- The wizard suggested 800MB of data for me, 90MB for Phyllis, and 607GB of shared items. I can see from reviewing the list that the wizard has remembered things I forgot or thought I couldn't easily obtain, but it also wanted to back up drives that won't be modified. After I eliminated the extra drives, the size dropped to 156MB of shared data. That's more like it! I stored the file to drive M.
- Note: For the update to work, you must install Windows 7 on the same disk as Windows XP.
- It's 11 am and I took a 20-minute lunch break while the backup ran.
- 11:20 – Starting the installation.
- 11:45 – System is requesting user name, computer name, password, and product key. Windows Update – I don't like the suggested answers, so selected *Ask me later*. Time zone, network (home network); set up Homegroup sharing (required setting up the password via Homegroup on the notebook computer because at least 2 machines must be set up to use this.) Desktop now belongs to a Homegroup. Preparing desktop.
- **The installation is complete and functional at 11:53.** I restarted to confirm proper boot process, then changed the CMOS boot order to restore D as the first boot device. Booted through GRUB to Linux and used KBRUEditor to change "Windows XP" to "Windows 7".

## The Rest of the Story

- Creative Audigy 2 ZS does not work because the software isn't installed. It didn't work properly under Vista, so functions will probably be limited under Windows 7.
- More troubling: The 1.5 GB drive partitioned as 2 drives is not visible. Windows partition manager does not see the drive. Linux does see the drives, both partitions. This suggests a missing driver. I don't need the 2 drives immediately, so this is a problem to be resolved later. Because I need the Windows update file, which is on one of the invisible drives, I booted to Linux and copied the file to a Windows-accessible drive.
- More instructions from Microsoft: Click *Start*, click *All Programs*, click *Accessories*, click *System Tools*, and then click *Windows Easy Transfer*. The Windows Easy Transfer window opens. Click *Next*. Click *An external hard disk or USB flash drive*. Click *This is my new computer*. Click *Yes, open the file*. Browse to the location where the Easy Transfer file was saved. Click the file name, and then click *Open*. Click *Transfer* to transfer all files and settings. You can also determine which files should be migrated by selecting only the user profiles you want to transfer, or by clicking *Customize*. Click *Close* after Windows Easy Transfer has completed moving your files. Start 12:33. The process transferred 2 user accounts, 2179 documents, and program settings for many programs. The process also provided a list (unfortunately, not one that can be printed, showing applications that will need to be reinstalled, if desired.) Restart required 12:38.
- My login settings, desktop, and files on the desktop have been restored. When I installed Firefox, my existing settings and add-ons were present.
- Creative claims to have an application for the sound card, so I downloaded and installed it. Restart requested. As of 12:52, I have sound again.
- Install critical applications – 12:45 pm
  - UltraEdit
  - Windows reminds me that no antivirus program is running. Oops. Installed AVG.
  - The Bat (complete with all my settings)

- Set Windows Update to download, but not install. It tells me that's a bad idea.
  - Office 2007 – adding all Excel add-ins and Office document imaging options.
  - Adobe CS4 – large application on 4 DVDs (previously copied to drive D) takes nearly an hour.
  - Photoshop Lightroom 2 – installed and updated to 2.4.
  - Adobe Audition 3.
  - Windows Update says it has 3 important items to install, 1 of which is a Silicon Image PCI Express SATA Link Controller. The drive I can't see is a SATA device that uses an add-on controller in a PCI Express slot because I was out of SATA ports when I added the drive. Might this be the solution to the problem? (Yes, in fact, it is and the missing drives are back even before the required restart.)
  - As of 2:20 pm, the most critical applications are installed.
  - Set the drive letters so they will be as they were previously.
  - Reinstalled and activated Carbonite.
  - Reinstall Timeslips. – 3:30pm
- Those are the critical applications. Restoring the remaining applications, the ones that I use regularly but not every day (Examples: Google Earth, Forte Agent, and Nero), will take another day and I will probably continue to find occasional applications that I forgot to reinstall for the next month or so.

## Problems and notes

- Installing Java failed, but allowing Windows 7 to manage the installation succeeded.
- Logitech Setpoint 4.72 complained about not recognizing Windows 7. I allowed the installation to continue and the application worked properly. (It had worked under Vista, so I expected it to work under Win 7.) One day later, I was offered an update to version 4.80.
- Nero 9's installation claims to succeed partially; in fact, it failed and the installed components cannot be uninstalled. (Nero AG will probably have a solution to this problem by the time the GA code is available to consumers.)
- Corel Graphics Suite X4 installer fails. (Corel will probably have a solution to this problem by the time the GA code is available to consumers.) When in doubt, run as Administrator in XP compatibility mode. No joy. "Fatal error during installation." I hope they fix this by October 22.
- 6 September 09: On startup, my account displayed a *temporary desktop* and an error message suggesting that I log out and then log on again. I did and the normal desktop appeared.
- I downloaded and used Nero General-Clean Tool to remove defective installation, then downloaded the current (9.4.13.2d) trial version of the application and installed it using the full serial number instead of the trial serial number the installer offered. I performed a custom installation to eliminate unnecessary components. Result (after 40 minutes): "The installation process cannot be resumed. A rollback of the failed component will be performed. Some applications have been installed successfully and can be used. Do you want these applications to be uninstalled?" My response: Yes. The installation takes 40 minutes. The rollback takes even longer and just about kills the system with CPU activity. How much longer? I don't know. **I killed the process after 2 hours, during which it consumed 50% of the processor** and instead used the General-Clean Tool. This is not a Windows 7 problem; this is a Nero AG problem.
- When I tried to install the Pantone Huey color monitor software, Windows told me there was a known problem and asked if I wanted to check for solutions. It then directed me to the Pantone website, where I downloaded the current version of the application and installed it without incident.
- Installing a printer driver for the HP LaserJet 1020 printer was a bit more complicated than expected. The CD has an autorun file that eventually launches the true installer. Several attempts to install the drivers failed until I ran the actual setup file in Windows XP compatibility mode and as Administrator. I had tried to print several test pages during the failed installations and Homegroup had noticed the printer from the laptop and I had attempted to print from there. All previous test pages and the page from the notebook computer printed when I finally got the printer installed properly.
- **Overall: Far faster and easier than expected and with fewer problems.**